

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #15
July 10, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE: The total count of cases of H5N1 influenza confirmed by the World Health Organization is 229, including 131 deaths. The only activity reported this week was from Indonesia, which is now up to 52 cases and 40 deaths. The most recent case occurred in a 5-year old in whose home chickens had died due to H5N1 influenza. WHO released an analysis of 205 cases. Half of the cases have been under 20 years of age; 90% have been under 40 years old. Overall the case-fatality rate has been 56%; the rate has been highest in those age 10-39 years. This is different from seasonal influenza, for which the case-fatality rate is highest in the elderly. A by-country list Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/(H5N1) reported to WHO follows:

Country/'03/'04/'05/'06/Total

Azerbaijan

cases / 0 / 0 / 0 / 8 / 8
deaths / 0 / 0 / 0 / 5 / 5

Cambodia

cases / 0 / 0 / 4 / 2 / 6
deaths / 0 / 0 / 4 / 2 / 6

China

cases 0 / 0 / 8 / 11 / 19
deaths 0 / 0 / 5 / 7 / 12

Djibouti

cases / 0 / 0 / 0 / 1 / 1
deaths / 0 / 0 / 0 / 0 / 0

Egypt

cases / 0 / 0 / 0 / 14 / 14
deaths 0 / 0 / 0 / 0 / 6 / 6

Indonesia

cases / 0 / 0 / 17 / 35 / 52
deaths / 0 / 0 / 11 / 29 / 40

Iraq

cases / 0 / 0 / 0 / 2 / 2
deaths / 0 / 0 / 0 / 2 / 2

Thailand

cases / 0 / 17 / 5 / 0 / 22
deaths / 0 / 12 / 2 / 0 / 14

Turkey

cases / 0 / 0 / 0 / 12 / 12
deaths / 0 / 0 / 0 / 4 / 4

Viet Nam

cases / 3 / 29 / 61 / 0 / 93
deaths / 3 / 20 / 19 / 0 / 42

Total

cases / 3 / 46 / 95 / 85 / 229
deaths / 3 / 32 / 41 / 55 / 131

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- On Tuesday, July 11, 2006, Drs. Lisa Kaplowitz and Gloria Addo-Ayensu will be participating on a panel to discuss planning for a possible pandemic of influenza at the 2006 Excellence in Government Conference in Washington DC. Other members of the panel include Admiral John Agwunobi, Assistant Secretary for Health, DHS, Dr. Greg Pane, Director, District of Columbia Department of Health and Mr. Donald Winstead, Senior Assistant for Pandemic Planning, US Office of Personnel Management. Dr. Kaplowitz will address the challenges Virginia faces in preparing for this or other public

health emergencies. Dr. Addo-Ayensu (Fairfax Health Director) will address challenges faced by localities in general and by the National Capital Region.

- Upcoming Regional and Local PanFlu Summits are scheduled as follows:

Far SW Region	July 20
Loudoun	August 10
Near SW Region	August 22
Eastern Shore	August 8
Middle Peninsula	August 1
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports

- **Northern Region**

- National Capitol Region (NCR) will conduct a PanFlu Tabletop Exercise (TTX) on July 19, a Role Playing table top; a series of simulations designed to strain and test the resilience of NCR communities during pandemic conditions.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Report

- **Arlington**

- Director moderated the PanFlu session for the Northern Virginia Criminal Justice Training Academy Conference for Chiefs and Sheriffs on June 9. The speakers included John Agwunobi, Assistant Secretary for Health, Department of Health and Human Services, as well as Jason Thomas, CDC Quarantine Station, Chris Novak, VDH Office of Epidemiology.
- Arlington County participated in an online symposium titled: Preparing for a Local Crisis within a Global Pandemic, by the PERI Symposium, the week of June 19. The piece Director submitted was titled "Maintaining Local Government Business Continuity." If people would like to access this and other papers from the symposium, they can follow this link <http://www.riskinstitute.org/peri/> and then click on the symposium center link.

- **Central Shenandoah**

- Planner presented PanFlu and SNS information to the Regional CERT group.
- CSHD had its Rockbridge County pandemic flu summit. Presentations given by Health Director, Epi & Planner.
- There will be a Rockbridge County follow-up meeting in late July.

- **Chesterfield**

- Held weekly meeting of PanFlu workgroup.
- Set up appointments to educate local physicians on PanFlu.
- Talked with Chesterfield Emergency Management group about PanFlu and began developing plans (Gov. Task Force).
- Developed physician packets.

- **Cumberland Plateau**

- Director and Planner presented the pandemic flu video at the Russell County Board of Supervisors' meeting, answered questions, and distributed invitations to the Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit.
- Environmental Health Manager and Planner presented the pandemic flu video at the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors' meeting, answered questions, and distributed invitations to the Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit.
- Planner hand-distributed 52 Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit invitations to the Russell County and Buchanan County local district government officials, state agencies, businesses, schools, courts, medical providers, first responders, veterinarians, faith-based organizations, community service boards and law enforcement.
- Epidemiologist and Planner participated in a Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit planning meeting with representatives from five (5) local public health agencies from Virginia and Tennessee.

- **Fairfax**

- Presentation to all Health Department staff on June 2nd reviewing the role of Public Health in national preparedness plans, County and agency preparedness efforts, essential role of staff and individual preparedness by Director and Deputy.
- Submitted Pandemic Influenza draft plan to County pandemic planning Executive Team on June 23rd.
- Mass Fatality management planning meeting was held on June 22nd. Participants included reps from health dept, hospitals, funeral homes, cemeteries, sheriff's office, medical examiner's office, and EMS.
- Home health care summit planned for June 17th.
- **Henrico**
 - Planner and Epidemiologist met with Emergency Manager from Richmond International Airport (RIC) and Chief of Operations, CDC Quarantine Station – Dulles Airport to finalize the RIC Communicable Disease Control Plan.
 - Planner (and other Central Region Planners) met with *Senior Navigator* to discuss their proposal for creating a Special Needs Registry.
- **Loudoun**
 - Health Director interviewed by Loudoun Times-Mirror reporter writing article about Loudoun County pandemic flu preparedness efforts.
 - Contacted sign language agencies to line up interpreters for the August 10 general public summit.
 - Met with outreach director of La Voz to discuss opportunities to educate the Hispanic community.
 - Health Director and Epidemiologist met with Director of Economic Development to collaborate on upcoming business PanFlu seminars.
 - Met with morticians of the Colonial Funeral Home in Leesburg to discuss their concerns and inform them of Health Department PanFlu progress.
 - Visited several local shelters and detention centers to secure points of contact to assist in seminar distribution efforts.
 - Met with County Public Information Office to update www.loudoun.gov and www.loudoun.gov/flu sites with pandemic flu seminar materials (Health Department invitation, seminar schedule, and seminar and summit registration forms).
 - Met with the Department of Information Technology regarding setup of online registration forms (e-surveys) for both occupation-specific seminars and general public summit; created and activated both these forms for public use.
 - Nearly every essential function has been identified for 23 of the 28 county departments and the key staff contacts and key vendors; and, key intra-agency dependencies have been identified. Gaps are being worked on.
 - The county has completed a limited hypothetical analysis of how departments would manage operations if they were displaced for at least 30 days from their existing building, or up to 6 months. Gaps will be addressed with department heads.
 - Distributed seminar flyers to the Loudoun County Pandemic Flu Preparedness Task Force members and requested that they begin distributing the flyers to their respective departments.
 - LPFPTF Meeting held. Fire/Rescue presented their draft plan.
 - Brief 'teaser' talk presented at the Board meeting of the Chamber of Commerce to stimulate attendance at the upcoming PanFlu business seminars.
 - Brief 'teaser' talk presented at the Economic Development Council to stimulate attendance at the upcoming business seminars.

- Scheduled time and rooms for PanFlu seminar series; (see www.loudoun.gov/flu)
 - Medical Personnel – July 12 and 15th
 - Veterinarians – July 13 and 15th
 - First Responders – July 18th and 22nd
 - Government – July 26th
 - Business – Jul 27th and 29th
- Loudoun County Public Pandemic Flu Summit – August 10th.
- Booked a special pandemic flu seminar session with Falcon’s Landing (Ashburn, VA retirement community of nearly 500 residents).
- Distributed seminar invitations to major medical groups, hospitals, nursing homes, some assisted living facilities, and private medical offices in Loudoun County.
- Faxed PanFlu seminar invitations to all pharmacies, funeral homes, and veterinarians in Loudoun County.
- Exercise budget for the Oct. exercise was prepared and submitted to the Regional Planner (budget included Prince William Health District).
- A Facilities Liaison Meeting was conducted at Heritage High School (POD), Leesburg, with key staff to provide an overview of the exercise and to discuss the logistics requirements on the day of the exercise and the recruitment of student clients and actors for the exercise.
- The Evaluation Core Group met to provide initial input for evaluating the exercise and to discuss the next steps for the Core Group.
- The Staging Site Core Group met to provide an updated overview of the exercise and to discuss the potential Core Group planning workload.
- Coordinated with pertinent Prince William Health District staff to schedule a meeting to present an overview of the exercise and to discuss the potential role Prince William will play in the exercise.
- The Master Responsibility Task List was updated for the planning team.
- Drafted a Staging Site Core Group paper to provide a basis of discussion with the Health Director for modifying the current POD Plan and CodeFlu 06 Exercise Plan.
- Prepared and distributed the agenda and PowerPoint presentation for the July 10th Planning Team meeting, and the July 10th Mid-Term Planning Conference.
- County Tabletop Exercise for Pandemic Flu COOP Preparedness (“Flu the COOP”):
- County CAO requested a COOP exercise to test all county department COOPs for pandemic flu readiness. The health department was appointed as lead to conduct the exercise (“Flu the COOP”) on July 19th from 8:00-12:00. About 20 agencies will be represented by about 60 senior level attendees. Purpose: To define a COOP, to appreciate the importance of a COOP, to identify critical department functions and critical personnel, and to identify gaps. Discussion will proceed in 3 phases (it’s coming, it’s here, and it’s bad).
- Oriented a county management intern to assist with the summer PanFlu seminars.
- Established new email address (flu@loudoun.gov) to be used for online-generated questions related to pandemic flu.
- Contacted Town of Leesburg Parks & Recreation regarding advertisement of seminars on town signs.
- Met with Virginia Defense Force members in Loudoun County to attend the first responders’ seminar sessions.
- Secured contact information for all local pharmacies via phone and internet to be used for mass faxes/emails advertising medical seminar.

- Met with and received commitment from a PHN to manage getting the word out to the nursing home/assisted living facilities in the county.
- Secured list of county veterinarians and began compiling contact information necessary to send mass faxes/emails advertising veterinarian seminar.
- Met with Director of Economic Development to garner support, brainstorm ideas for penetration of the business community.
- Spoke with Mental Health Director and received commitment to put word out to the Mental Health Community.
- Spoke with Northern Region PIO regarding effective tactics for increasing attendance/effectiveness at the public summit.
- Finalized invitational language for online registration and mass faxes/emails.
- Revised seminar flyers for distribution.
- Received commitment from County Administrator to speak at government seminar and public summit.
- **Lord Fairfax (Winchester Area)**
 - Staff spent time this week preparing for the upcoming July 28 "Avian Influenza" Conference. Registration has been opened.
- **New River**
 - Staff continues to routinely communicate with local government, partner agencies and private organizations. The newly formed New River Valley-Emergency Planning Coalition is proving to be an exceptional and effective means for evaluating existing plans and integration of resources.
 - Planner, Epidemiologist, and district infection control nurse continue to participate with VA Tech pandemic flu planning committee.
 - Trying to schedule PanFlu presentation for Virginia Education Regions six and seven.
 - Continuing efforts to provide pandemic flu preparedness for New River Criminal Justice Training Academy
 - Working through local emergency management coordinators to identify and communicate with nursing homes and home health care providers.
 - Scheduling pandemic flu preparedness planning with New River Valley Regional Jail and Pulaski Co. Correctional Center.
- **Piedmont**
 - Pandemic Influenza presentation to the Charlotte County Board of Supervisors.
 - Pandemic Influenza presentation to the Piedmont Health District Nurses.
 - Newsletter distributed to healthcare providers in the Piedmont Health District covering topics including Pandemic Influenza.
- **Southside**
 - Planner met with CAO for Brunswick County to discuss developing coordinating committee and readiness activities.
 - Will make a Pan Flu presentation at the Brunswick County Preparedness and Response Exercise.
 - Developing talking point/lesson plans for Pan Flu & video presentations to community groups and schools.
 - Set dates for Pan Flu presentation to Mecklenburg School staff & nurses.
 - Creating database of all medical office, church, daycare center contacts, etc. in community.
 - Planner assisted RUASI as evaluator in Tabletop exercise.
 - Epi presented information to Mecklenburg School nurses about surveillance.
 - Planner Completed the Pan Flu Gap Analysis and budget items for CDC Grant.

- Planner attended Halifax Regional Pan Flu Task Force meeting.
- PH nurse participated in a Mecklenburg School Health Advisory Board meeting, where the Pan Flu video was shown and discussions followed.
- Clarksville Ruritan Club has asked Health Department to make a PanFlu presentation. Dates to follow.
- Currently developing PanFlu lesson plans and talking points to train other SHD staff to give presentations to community groups.
- Epi and MRC coordinator presented Epi principles and interviewing techniques to MRC volunteers.
- **Virginia Beach**
 - Met with Virginia Beach Public Schools internal Pandemic Committee to provide info for planning and answer questions.
 - Met with Police to help them go through and answer questions that came out through Bureau of Justice Assistance.
 - Presented Pandemic Planning information to city of Virginia Beach Public Utilities leadership meeting.
 - Presented Pandemic Planning for healthcare providers at the State Podiatry Conference.
 - Started planning for meeting for Healthcare Forum we will be holding in August for all local healthcare leaders.
 - Planner attended Mass Fatalities training in preparation for city planning for Pandemic Influenza
 - Held second City of Virginia Beach Pandemic Planning Committee meeting. Provided Continuity of Operations for Pandemic Influenza Plan template to committee members and worked through each section.
 - Virginia Beach Convention Center has granted us space for our full-scale exercise. It will be November 3 and will entail actual flu vaccine distribution.
 - Currently, identifying on a date for table top prior to full-scale exercise.
- **West Piedmont**
 - Henry-Martinsville Pandemic Influenza Planning Group met at Henry County Public Safety. Eighteen representatives from eleven local agencies met to discuss pandemic flu planning for Martinsville and Henry County. The group watched the “Pandemic Flu” video created by the Virginia Department of Health and discussed potential issues that the community will face during an influenza pandemic. The group will meet again in late July for a working session.
 - Epidemiologist attended VDH Public Information Officer training at the Danville Health Department. The course covered television, radio, and newspaper interviews. These interviewing skills will be important during an emergency or pandemic as the Health Department works to get information to the public.